Application No. 10/656,034 Office Action dated October 4, 2007 Amendment to Final OA dated April 4, 2008

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-5, 7-14, 17-19 and 21-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 4, 5 and 19 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-3, 7-14, 17, 18 and 21-24 are rejected. Claims 2, 3 and 12 have been canceled. A complete listing of pending claims is provided below.

## LISTING OF CLAIMS

 (Previously Presented) A method for differentiating between ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease by testing a fecal sample for an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies, the method comprising:

obtaining a fecal sample from a person presenting with inflammatory bowel disease; and

determining whether there is an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies in the sample, wherein an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies is an indicator of ulcerative colitis.

- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Canceled
- 4. (Canceled)
- (Canceled)
- (Canceled)
- (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising: diluting the fecal sample.

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8. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 7, further

comprising:

contacting the fecal sample with neutrophil cytoplasmic antigens to create a treated sample.

(Original) The method as recited in claim 8, further comprising:
 contacting the treated sample with polyvalent antibodies to human
 immunoelobulin to create a readable sample.

10. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

determining an optical density of the readable sample at 450 nm, wherein the optical density corresponds to a level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies in the sample.

11. (Previously presented) A diagnostic assay for differentiating between ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease by determining whether a fecal sample contains an elevated level of anti-neutophil cytoplasmic antibodies, the assay comprising:

obtaining a human fecal sample from a person presenting with inflammatory bowel disease;

diluting the fecal sample;

contacting the diluted sample with neutrophil cytoplasmic antigens to create a treated sample;

contacting the treated sample with polyvalent antibodies to human immunoglobulin to create a readable sample;

determining the optical density of the readable sample at 450 nm;[.]

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determining whether the optical density indicates an elevated level of anti-

neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies, where an elevated level of anti-neutophil

cytoplasmic antibodies is an indicator of ulcerative colitis.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The diagnostic assay as recited in claim 12,

wherein the anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies are one of IgG, IgE, IgM, IgD, IgAser, IgA,

and combinations thereof.

14. (Previously presented) The diagnostic assay as recited in claim 11,

wherein the assay is selected from a group consisting of an enzyme-linked immunoassay and a

lateral flow membrane test.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) A method for screening for ulcerative colitis in

persons presenting with inflammatory bowel disease, the method comprising:

obtaining a fecal sample from a person presenting with inflammatory

bowel disease;

determining whether anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies are present in

the sample; and

diagnosing ulcerative colitis if anti-neutrophil cytomplasmic antibodies

are present in the sample.

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18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein if the sample

contains an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies, differentiating between

ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

19. (Canceled)

(Canceled)

21. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

diluting the sample.

22. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 21, further

comprising:

contacting the diluted sample with neutrophil cytoplasmic antigens to

create a treated sample.

23. (Original) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:

contacting the treated sample with polyvalent antibodies to human

immunoglobulin to create a readable sample.

24. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 23, further

comprising: determining an optical density of the readable sample at 450 nm, wherein the

optical density corresponds to a level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies in the sample.

(Canceled)

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